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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01592 100730Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1592

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, LE, IS
SUBJECT: SIILASVUO IN BEIRUT JUNE 9: MIXED RESULTS

SIILASVUO TOLD US LATE EVENING JUNE 9 THAT HE AND ERSKINE SAW BOUTROS AND KHOURY THAT DAY IN BEIRUT. SIILASVUO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS TO LEBANESE: NEED FOR COOPERATION TO PERMIT UNIFIL TO MOVE INTO ALL AREAS VACATED BY IDF, NEED TO CLARIFY STATUS OF HADDAD AND IMPORTANCE OF HIS COOPERATION, NEED FOR LEBANESE ARMY TO MOVE SOUTH, AND NEED FOR ARRANGEMENTS RE "GOOD FENCE".

IN RESPONSE, BOUTROS AND KHOURY SAID THAT AS LONG AS UNIFIL
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CANNOT GUARANTEE NON-INFILTRATION SOUTH BY PALESTINIANS, GOL CANNOT TELL HADDAD TO STAY IN CAMPS OR REMAIN INACTIVE. LEBANESE ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE AS MANY AS 1,000 PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH (SIILASVUO THOUGHT THIS WAS VERY HIGH AS UNIFIL ESTIMATES ONLY ABOUT 200). NEVERTHELESS, INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN SENT BY LEBANESE TO HADDAD TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL AND TO FACILITATE ITS ENTRY INTO AREA.

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BOUTROS AND KHOURY SAID THEY ENVISAGED A JOINT PRESENCE OF UNIFIL AND HADDAD IN THE ENCLAVE AREAS. AS FOR EVENTUAL RESOLUTION OF HADDAD/SHIDIAK PROBLEM, THEY SAID THAT WOULD BE FOR THE FUTURE. FOR THE PRESENT, HADDAD FORCES WERE TO BE RECKONED WITH AS A DE FACTO FORCE IN THE AREA AND LEBANESE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THEM AS SUCH.

ON SUBJECT OF LEBANESE FORCES MOVING SOUTH, BOUTROS AND KHOURY SAID THAT THIS WAS BEING STUDIED WITH AIM OF DOING THIS IN NEAR FUTURE, SIILASVUO GAVE US NO FURTHER DETAILS RE NUMBERS OR TIMING.

SIILASVUO THEN RAISED SUBJECT OF GOOD FENCE, SAYING THAT UNIFIL NEEDED A CLEAR IDEA OF LEBANSE VIEWS. BOUTROS' RESPONSE WAS THAT AS GOL NOT IN CONTROL IN AREA IT WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO INTERVENE. CURRENT SITUATION WHICH HAD BEEN IN EFFECT REGARDING GOOD FENCE WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IDF WITHDREW AND LEBANESE WERE AGAIN IN CONTROL. IN ANY EVENT, BOUTROS SAID THAT HE "COULD NOT TACKLE" THIS NOW AND THAT UNIFIL SHOULD MAINTAIN STATUS QUO. SIILASVUO RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT UN CONSIDERED OLD ADL TO BE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF UNIFIL OPERATIONS AND WOULD CONTROL IT SO THAT IT NOT USED BY ARMED ELEMENTS NOR USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

LEBANESE ASKED SIILASVUO TO ARRANGE FOR FORMAL MEETING OF ILMAC ON SUNDAY JUNE 11 TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH ISRAELIS. ON HIS RETURN TO CONFIDENTIAL

JERUSALEM SIILASVUO HAS RELAYED GOL REQUEST TO IDF LIAISON OFFICER LEVINSON. SIILASVUO NOTED THAT EITAN HAS ASKED TO SEE HIM (NO REASON SPECIFIED) AND A MEETING IS PLANNED FOR MONDAY JUNE 12.

WE QUERIED SIILASVUO ABOUT EFFECT, IF ANY, OF JUNE 9 ISRAELI RAID ON ATMOSPHERE. HE REPLIED THAT NEITHER BUTROS NOR KHOURY WERE AWARE OF IT UNTIL HE MENTIONED IT AT LUNCH. UNIFIL CONTINGENTS (FRENCH AND SENEGALESE) HEARD FRING AND EXPLOSIONS BUT SIILASVUO SAID

HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY DETAILED REPORTS FROM UNIFIL SOURCES.

COMMENT: SIILASVUO THOUGHT THAT FACT GOL HAD SENT MESSAGE TO HADDAD TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL WAS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER ON OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS LEBANESE TROOPS TO THE SOUTH AND FUTURE OF GOOD FENCE HE THOUGHT GOL DISPLAYED ITS USUAL LACK OF DECISIVE-NESS. HIS FINAL COMENT WAS "LET'S SEE HOW HADDAD REACTS."
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